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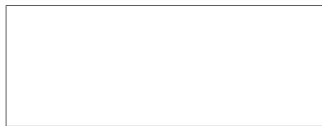
George V. Lauder
Director, Public Affairs

30 May 1986

DCI:

Herewith is the text of the White House's response to my request for support of our efforts to educate the media about the real issues at stake. Djerejian did a good job. He said he could hear a pin drop.

STAT



George V. Lauder

cc: DDCI w/att

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CPH-CIA STATEMENT; 1ST LG; A049; 0658

CIA SAYS PROSECUTION TO RELEASE CLASSIFIED INFORMATION AT PELTON TRIAL

WITH PH-PELTON TRIAL

TOP 17 GRAPS MEN WITH WHITE HOUSE STATEMENT

BY W. DALE NELSON

ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP) - A WHITE HOUSE SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY JOURNALISTS "SHOULD NOT PUBLICLY DISCLOSE INFORMATION THAT IS CLASSIFIED OR THAT WILL AFFECT THE NATIONAL SECURITY INTERESTS OF THE UNITED STATES," EITHER IN REPORTING A CURRENT SPY TRIAL IN BALTIMORE OR AT OTHER TIMES.

EDWARD DJEREJIAN MADE THE STATEMENT WHEN ASKED TO STATE THE WHITE HOUSE POLICY REGARDING A WARNING TO REPORTERS COVERING THE TRIAL OF FORMER NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY WORKER RONALD PELTON AGAINST REPORTING INFORMATION NOT SPECIFICALLY RELEASED DURING THE PROCEEDINGS.

THE WARNING WAS ISSUED WEDNESDAY AS THE CIA AND THE NSA SAID PROSECUTORS WILL RELEASE CLASSIFIED INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION DURING THE FEDERAL COURT TRIAL OF PELTON, WHICH BEGAN ON TUESDAY.

A STATEMENT RELEASED BY THE TWO AGENCIES SAID THE GOVERNMENT'S CASE "WILL INCLUDE RELEASE OF CERTAIN CLASSIFIED INFORMATION INVOLVING COMMUNICATIONS INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED STATES ..."

THE AGENCIES SAID THE "DECISION TO MAKE USE OF THIS INFORMATION IN TRIAL HAS BEEN MADE BY APPROPRIATE GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES AFTER CAREFUL CONSIDERATION OF THE DEMANDS OF TRIAL AND THE POTENTIAL HARM THAT RELEASE OF THIS SELECTED DATA MAY CAUSE THE NATIONAL SECURITY."

DJEREJIAN SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD DETERMINED THAT "IN ORDER TO SUCCESSFULLY PROSECUTE, THE INFORMATION HAD TO BE AVAILABLE."

THE STATEMENT CAUTIONED REPORTERS "AGAINST SPECULATION AND REPORTING DETAILS BEYOND THE INFORMATION ACTUALLY RELEASED AT TRIAL."

DJEREJIAN SAID THE STATEMENT HAD BEEN CLEARED BY PRESIDENT REAGAN'S NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER, JOHN POINDEXTER.

"WE ARE IN FULL AGREEMENT WITH THE THRUST OF THAT STATEMENT," HE SAID. "I THINK WHAT THE STATEMENT SAID WAS THAT SPECULATION AND REPORTING DETAILS BEYOND THE INFORMATION THAT HAS ACTUALLY BEEN RELEASED AT TRIAL SHOULD BE CONSIDERED VERY, VERY CAREFULLY AND SHOULD NOT HAPPEN BECAUSE SUCH SPECULATION AND ADDITIONAL FACTS WHICH DISCLOSE INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION WHICH COULD HARM THE NATIONAL SECURITY INTERESTS ARE NOT AUTHORIZED DISCLOSURES."

ALTHOUGH THE STATEMENT SPOKE OF SPECULATION AS WELL AS REPORTING, DJEREJIAN SAID, "THE BOTTOM LINE IS REPORTING DETAILS BEYOND THE INFORMATION ACTUALLY DISCLOSED AT THE TRIAL. FOCUS YOU ON THAT."

HE SAID THE STATEMENT WAS "NOT INTENDED AS A THREAT" AND HE WAS NOT SUGGESTING THAT REPORTERS WOULD BE PROSECUTED UNDER A 1950 LAW, NOT PREVIOUSLY APPLIED TO THE PRESS, AGAINST "DISCLOSING ANY CLASSIFIED INFORMATION CONCERNING COMMUNICATIONS INTELLIGENCE." CIA DIRECTOR WILLIAM CASEY HAS RAISED THE POSSIBILITY OF SUCH PROSECUTION IN CONNECTION WITH SOME RECENT NEWS STORIES.

COUNTRY AND ITS PEOPLE ARE WILLING TO SUPPORT A SECRET INTELLIGENCE SERVICE IN THIS VERY REAL AND SOMETIMES UGLY WORLD WE LIVE IN."

"IF THEY ARE, THERE HAS TO BE PROTECTION OF INTELLIGENCE SOURCES AND METHODS," HE SAID.

"NOBODY HERE IN THIS ADMINISTRATION IS EVEN IMPLYING THAT DEBATE SHOULD BE STIFLED ON THE ISSUE, BUT WHAT HAS TO BE UNDERSTOOD IS THAT YOU CAN'T HAVE YOUR CAKE AND EAT IT TOO," HE SAID.

"WE HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY IN THE GOVERNMENT AND THIS ADMINISTRATION TO ASSURE THAT THERE IS DISCIPLINE AND THAT THERE ARE NOT UNAUTHORIZED DISCLOSURES . . . AND QUITE FRANKLY THAT IS THE MAJOR THRUST OF WHAT IS BEING CONSIDERED NOW," DJEREJIAN SAID.

AN ADMINISTRATION SOURCE, SPEAKING ON CONDITION OF ANONYMITY, SAID SUNDAY THAT THE WHITE HOUSE IS PREPARING FOR A MEETING OF OFFICIALS OF GOVERNMENT AGENCIES TO DISCUSS WAYS TO TIGHTEN UP ON UNAUTHORIZED DISCLOSURES. DJEREJIAN SAID WEDNESDAY HE DOES NOT KNOW WHEN SUCH A MEETING WILL BE HELD.

"CONCOMITANTLY, THE PRESS AND THE ELECTRONIC MEDIA HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY, WHEN THEY DO HAVE INFORMATION, TO LOOK AT THAT INFORMATION AND PUT IT UNDER THE SAME STANDARDS OF 'HOW WILL THIS AFFECT THE NATIONAL SECURITY OF THE UNITED STATES?' WE'RE ALL AMERICANS," DJEREJIAN SAID.

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